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United Nations Forum on Forests
Eleventh session
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Agenda item 8

Draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests submitted by the Chair of the Forum, Noel Nelson Messone (Gabon)

Future international arrangement on forests we want

1. We, the ministers responsible for forests, gathered at the high-level segment of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, stress that forests provide multiple benefits for the lives and well-being of people across the planet. The sustainable management of all types of forests is vital to poverty eradication, economic growth and decent employment, food security and nutrition, gender equality, governance, health, water quality and supply, energy production, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, watershed protection and disaster risk reduction.

2. We welcome efforts by countries and stakeholders to advance the sustainable management of all types of forests, but are deeply concerned about the continued loss and degradation of forests in many regions, the fragmentation in global forest governance and the impact of accelerating global demand for forest products and services in the years ahead.

3. We recognize that the United Nations Forum on Forests, with its universal membership and comprehensive mandate, plays a vital role in addressing challenges and issues relating to forests in a holistic and integrated manner and in promoting policy coordination and cooperation to achieve the sustainable management of all types of forests.

4. We affirm that the Forum should have a key role in achieving the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets as well as in integrating forests into the broader post-2015 development agenda to be adopted by the General Assembly.

5. We underscore the need to accelerate efforts at all levels to achieve the objectives of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015. We therefore decide to strengthen the current arrangement and establish a strong, more effective and solid arrangement for the period 2015-2030 by making the commitments set out below.

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6. We commit ourselves:[1]

(a) To strengthening the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and to action to achieve its global objectives on forests;

(b) To integrating the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets into the United Nations Forest Agreement/Instrument/Framework, taking into account forest-related developments since 2007;

(c) To working through the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to integrate the implementation of the United Nations Forest Agreement/Instrument/Framework and the supportive role of the Collaborative Partnership into their strategies and programmes;

(d) To promoting the implementation and financing at all levels of sustainable management of all types of forests, including by:

(i) Mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for the sustainable management of all types of forests and enhancing the access of countries to forest-related funds;

(ii) Strengthening technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building, including the transfer of environmentally sound technology, as well as forest-related governance, law enforcement and enabling environments, and secure tenure and access to forest resources;

(iii) Strengthening the Forum, its secretariat and the Collaborative Partnership with associated resources to ensure that they perform their functions;

(e) To developing, by 2017, a strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 to guide the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components;

(f) To ensuring the allocation of adequate resources for the implementation of the present declaration and resolution 11/[ ] on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 in various forums;

(g) To accelerating coordination and collaboration on all issues relating to forests and promoting complementarity and coherence between the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 and other forest-related processes;

(h) To fully engaging stakeholders, in particular regional and subregional organizations, the forest products industry and local and indigenous communities, in the work of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015;

(i) To strengthening monitoring, assessment and reporting by countries and the role of the Forum, in particular with regard to the implementation of the United Nations Forest Agreement/Instrument/Framework and the achievement of the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets.

[1] These commitments provide an overall framework of political commitment for the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015. Decisions on specific action and measures to turn the commitments into reality are being taken as part of Forum resolution 11/[ ] on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015.

7. We call upon:

(a) The participants in the third International Conference on Financing for Development to consider the role of forests in advancing sustainable development as a priority for financing for development;

(b) The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at its twenty-first session, to use the United Nations Forest Agreement/Instrument/Framework as the integrated reference framework for its forest-related climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and action in the future;

(c) The Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to strengthen their participation and involvement in the work of the Forum on the sustainable management of all types of forests;

(d) The existing and emerging forest-related financing initiatives, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, to support the implementation of the United Nations Forest Agreement;

(e) The above-mentioned bodies and participants in the above-mentioned conferences and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda to consider the present declaration to be the contribution of the Forum to the outcomes of those events, and in this regard we request the Secretary-General to officially submit the present declaration to those conferences and the summit.

8. We emphasize that our country representatives in the relevant negotiation processes should integrate the key elements of the present declaration and Forum resolution 11/[ ] into the outcome documents of the above-mentioned conferences and summit.

9. We agree to meet again in 2020, together with our partners, including the heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the chief executive officers of private sector, philanthropic and community organizations.

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United Nations Forum on Forests
Eleventh session
4-15 May 2015
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its eleventh session, Noel Nelson Messone (Gabon)

International arrangement on forests beyond 2015

The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, by which it established the international arrangement on forests and the United Nations Forum on Forests and which led to the establishment of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support the work of the Forum,

Recalling also its resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006 and United Nations Forum on Forests resolution 10/2 of 19 April 2013,[1] providing for the review in 2015 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, including its scope and its preparatory process,

Recognizing the achievements of the international arrangement on forests since its inception, in particular the adoption by the General Assembly of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests[2] agreed upon by the Forum, as well as the contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, while also aware of the shortfalls of the current arrangement and the need to harness its full potential,

Acknowledging the progress made towards sustainable forest management, including the implementation of the non-legally binding

* E/CN.18/2015/1.

[1] See E/2013/42, chap. I, sect. B.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 62/98, annex.

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instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of its global objectives on forests at the local, national, regional and international levels,

Welcoming the significant forest-related developments in other forums over the past decade and their relevance to the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015, while also noting the fragmentation in forest policy at the global level and emphasizing the need for enhanced coherence in policy formulation and implementation at all levels,

Welcoming also the recognition given to forests and sustainable forest management by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals in its proposed sustainable development goals and targets,[3] and emphasizing the economic, social and environmental contributions of all types of forests to the achievement of the sustainable development goals and targets,

Taking note of the contributions made by various stakeholders for the review in 2015 of the international arrangement on forests, including the views submitted by States members of the Forum and major groups, the reports of the independent assessment of the arrangement and the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests, and the initiatives hosted by China, Nepal and Switzerland,

Stressing the need to strengthen the capacity of the international arrangement on forests to foster coherence on forest-related policies, catalyse the implementation and financing of sustainable forest management, promote coordination and collaboration on forest issues at all levels, and integrate the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 into the broader post-2015 development agenda,

I. International arrangement on forests beyond 2015

1. *Decides*:

(a) To extend the international arrangement on forests to 2030, with the following objectives:

(i) To advance the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(ii) To enhance the contributions of forests to sustainable development, including the achievement of the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets;

(iii) To strengthen long-term political commitment to this end;

(b) That the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 shall:

(i) Consist of States members of the Forum, the Forum and its subsidiary bodies, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the secretariat of the

[3] All references in the present resolution to the sustainable development goals and associated targets, including the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets, are those to be agreed upon by the General Assembly in September 2015.

Forum, and shall also include the Trust Fund of the United Nations Forum on Forests and its voluntary strategic trust fund/global forest fund, as well as the upgraded facilitative process;

(ii) Operate in a transparent, cost-efficient and accountable manner, and provide value-added and enhanced coherence with other forest-related processes and initiatives;

2. *Affirms* that the objectives of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 apply to all its components, as referred to in paragraph 1 (b) (i) of the present resolution, and will be achieved only through collective and coherent actions at all levels by Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations, major groups and other stakeholders;

II. United Nations Forum on Forests beyond 2015

3. *Decides* that the core functions of the Forum will be to:

(a) Provide a coherent, open, transparent and participatory global platform for policy development, dialogue and coordination on all forest-related issues and emerging areas of priority concern in an integrated, comprehensive and holistic manner, including through cross-sectoral approaches;

(b) Facilitate, promote, monitor and assess the implementation of the sustainable management of all types of forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests, as well as the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets, in an integrated manner, and mobilize and channel financial, technical and scientific resources to this end;

(c) Promote cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, as well as contribute to synergies among them, including coordination among donors;

(d) Strengthen political commitment to the sustainable management of all types of forests, including through high-level engagement and the development of ways to engage in liaison with the governing bodies of the relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments;

4. *Also decides* that the Forum will continue to:

(a) Be a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council headquartered in New York, with a membership comprising all States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, with full and equal participation, including voting rights;

(b) Be open to relevant international and regional organizations, including regional economic integration organizations, institutions and instruments, as well as major groups and other stakeholders;[4]

(c) Operate under the rules of procedure of functional commissions and report to the Economic and Social Council and, through it, to the General Assembly;

[4] See General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, sect. C.

(d) Meet biennially at United Nations Headquarters in New York for a period of five consecutive days, and may hold sessions elsewhere in accordance with established United Nations rules and practices;

(e) Convene ad hoc expert group meetings or similar ad hoc arrangements of limited duration, as needed;

(f) Encourage voluntary initiatives sponsored by countries, regions and subregions, organizations, major groups and other partners in support of the work and the priorities of the Forum;

(g) Elect a Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one of whom will also act as Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution;

5. *Further decides* to strengthen the functioning of the Forum beyond 2015 by:

(a) Requesting that it implement its mandate on the basis of a concise strategic plan for the period 2017-2030, as defined in section X of the present resolution;

(b) Restructuring the sessions of the Forum to maximize the impact and relevance of its work by holding regular sessions during even calendar years, with a view to aligning them with the biennial programme and budget of the United Nations;

(c) Convening, in addition to the regular sessions of the Forum, high-level segments not exceeding two days, whenever warranted, to accelerate action towards sustainable forest management and address forest-related global challenges; such segments may include a "world forest partnership forum/dialogue" involving the heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, chief executive officers from the private sector, and philanthropic and civil society organizations;

(d) Enhancing the contributions of the country-led, region-led, organization-led and major group-led initiatives aimed at greater support for the priorities of the Forum as defined in its strategic plan and its four-year programmes of work, including by encouraging the organizers to define their topics in a manner consistent with the upcoming themes of the Forum's session;

(e) Inviting the Bureau of the Forum, in addition to carrying out its regular functions, to foster ties with the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests by holding, inter alia, regular meetings with the presiding officers of their governing bodies and attending the high-level segment of the high-level political forum and sessions of the governing bodies of the Partnership's member organizations, including conferences of the parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[5] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[6] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[7]

(f) Establishing a committee on implementation and technical advice as a subsidiary body of the Forum, to:

(i) Assess the progress in, and make recommendations to the Forum on, the implementation of the Forum's resolutions and decisions, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the strategic plan;

(ii) Monitor and assess the work and the performance of the upgraded facilitative process and report thereon to the Forum;

(iii) Review and advise on the availability of resources for sustainable forest management funding, including the voluntary strategic trust fund/global forest fund, and monitor to ensure that the operation of the fund is consistent with the guidelines to be approved by the Forum, as referred to in paragraph 11 (g) of the present resolution;

(iv) Serve as a platform for the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional organizations, major groups and other stakeholders in providing technical advice and input to the Forum;

6. *Decides* that the Committee on Implementation and Technical Advice shall:

(a) Have the same membership as that of the Forum;

(b) Meet on an intersessional basis for up to five consecutive days during odd calendar years;

(c) Be chaired by two Co-Chairs, who shall normally be elected at the end of each session of the Committee for a term of office ending with the election of their successors at the subsequent session of the Committee and shall be eligible for re-election; the Co-Chairs for the first session of the Committee shall be elected at the special session of the Forum to be held in 2016, and the Co-Chairs shall be ex officio members of the Bureau of the Forum;

(d) Be funded through regular budget resources, to also include provisions for a round-trip economy class ticket for the travel of one representative per delegation of States members of the Committee comprising developing countries and countries with economies in transition to attend sessions of the Committee in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations of the United Nations;

(e) Be supported and serviced by the secretariat of the Forum;

(f) Operate in a transparent and participatory manner, with the involvement of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, major groups and other relevant stakeholders;

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

III. Non-legally binding instrument on forests beyond 2015

7. *Reaffirms* the continued validity of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the global objectives on forests, and emphasizes the need to strengthen their implementation, taking into account forest-related developments that have occurred since 2007;

8. *Decides* to extend the timeline of the global objectives on forests to 2030 and to rename the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests "the United Nations Forest Agreement/Instrument/Framework";

9. *Requests* the working group of the Forum, as referred to in paragraph 30 of the present resolution, to make a proposal to the Forum at its special session to be held in 2016 to replace the references to the Millennium Development Goals with references to the sustainable development goals, and integrate the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets into the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests in a coherent and complementary manner; and consider the merits of elaborating additional global objectives on forests on issues such as forest law enforcement and governance, as well as means of implementation;

10. *Urges* Member States to utilize the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as an integrated framework for implementing sustainable forest management and forest-related sustainable development goals and targets;

IV. Catalysing implementation and financing

11. *Decides*:

(a) To upgrade the facilitative process to a United Nations forest financing facility/global forest facility to significantly increase its capacity to implement its existing[8] and additional functions, in accordance with paragraph 11 (b) of the present resolution;

(b) That the upgraded facility shall, inter alia:

(i) Focus on enhancing effectively the capacity of countries to access financing from existing and emerging forest-related funds to assist them in designing strategies, programmes and projects for submission to such financing agencies, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, to implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(ii) Share countries' best practices in sustainable forest management and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(iii) Strengthen the capacity of the Forum's national focal points, at their request, in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and reporting thereon to the Forum;

[8] The functions of the facilitative process (see E/2009/118, chap. I, sect. B, and E/2011/42, chap. I, sect. B) are set out in the annex to the present resolution.

(iv) Serve as a clearing house for new and emerging financing opportunities and as a platform for sharing lessons learned from successful projects;

(c) That the secretariat of the Forum should manage the upgraded facilitative process;

(d) That the activities of the upgraded facilitative process should be implemented in collaboration with relevant member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(e) To establish a voluntary global forest fund under the auspices of the Forum to support the upgraded facilitative process and to directly finance project proposals submitted by Member States, to implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(e) (alt.) To request the establishment of a voluntary strategic trust fund as a sub-account of the Forum Trust Fund to support the upgraded facilitative process and the implementation of the strategic plan;

(f) That the Forum's working group should develop and propose to the Forum at its special session to be held in 2016, in accordance with paragraph 30 of the present resolution, draft guidelines for the transparent and effective operation of the voluntary strategic trust fund/global forest fund, and that in the interim, the secretariat will oversee the fund's operation, in consultations with the Bureau as appropriate, until such time as the guidelines are approved and become effective;

(g) To invite the Secretary-General to consider using the resources of the Forum Trust Fund, inter alia, for the preparation of background reports and studies, for contracting consultants to support the sessions of the Forum and the meetings of its Committee on Implementation and Technical Advice, for the travel of staff and for the funding of extrabudgetary staff posts; in addition, the Forum Trust Fund, through its sub-account voluntary strategic trust fund, should support the activities referred to in paragraph 11 (e) of the present resolution;

(h) To request the Forum, through its Committee on Implementation and Technical Advice, to review periodically the performance of the upgraded facilitative process and the level of funding for the voluntary strategic trust fund/ global forest fund; the first review should be undertaken by the Committee at its session to be held in 2023, with a view to making recommendations to the Forum at its regular session to be held in 2024;

(i) To invite the Global Environment Facility, in the context of its next replenishment period, to:

i. Establish a dedicated focal area on sustainable forest management;

ii. Become a financial mechanism for the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(j) Call upon donor Governments and organizations, including financial institutions and others in a position to do so, to pledge contributions to the trust funds as soon as possible and to sponsor initiatives in support of the Forum's work;

V. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

12. *Decides*:

(a) That the Forum shall be the primary body to contribute to the follow-up and review of the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets in accordance with the modalities to be defined for the post-2015 development agenda;

(b) To invite Member States to monitor, assess and report on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets, taking into account the modality for reporting on the sustainable development goals and targets under the high-level political forum on sustainable development; in this regard, the Forum requests its secretariat, in consultation with Member States and member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to present a monitoring and reporting format, along with a proposal on the periodicity and frequency of reporting, at the first meeting of the Committee on Implementation and Technical Advice to be held in 2017;

(c) To request the Secretariat to prepare a quadrennial global publication suitable for a wide range of audiences on progress in the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets, in collaboration with the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and regional commissions and organizations; the first publication should become available in 2020, prior to the session of the Forum to be held that year;

(d) To invite the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the criteria and indicator processes to establish a global forest indicators partnership to collect and share data and to develop indicators to assess multiple benefits of forests, in particular their socioeconomic benefits; in this regard, the Forum requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant entities, to present to the Forum's working group a proposal for the global forest indicators partnership;

(e) To continue to make the reports on its sessions, as well as other relevant inputs, available to relevant United Nations bodies and other international forest-related organizations, instruments and intergovernmental processes;

VI. Secretariat of the Forum

13. *Decides* that the secretariat of the Forum shall:

(a) Continue to service and support the Forum, including by:

(i) Organizing and supporting the meetings of the Forum, its subsidiary bodies and its Bureau and providing operational and logistical support, including the preparation of official documentation, reports, studies and background documents for the Forum's sessions as well as for intersessional activities and meetings;

(ii) Raising the profile of forests and facilitating the participation and involvement of countries, organizations, major groups and other stakeholders in activities of the Forum and during intersessional periods;

(iii) Promoting inter-agency collaboration, in particular by serving as a member of, and providing secretariat services to, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(iv) Managing the Forum Trust Fund and providing substantive and technical support to the country-led, region-led, organization-led and major group-led initiatives;

(b) Undertake the following additional responsibilities:

(i) Manage the upgraded facilitative process and the Forum Trust Fund sub-account voluntary strategic trust fund/global forest fund, under the guidance of the Forum;

(ii) Service and support the Forum's working group and the Committee on Implementation and Technical Advice;

(iii) Work within the United Nations system to integrate the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 into the post-2015 development agenda;

(iv) Prepare the quadrennial publications in accordance with paragraph 12 (c) of the present resolution;

14. *Notes with concern* that the secretariat of the Forum remains under-resourced, and, to enable it to discharge fully its functions, recommends to the General Assembly to strengthen the secretariat and significantly increase the regular budget-funded staff posts and resources of the secretariat, and also requests the Secretary-General to upgrade the secretariat to a division on forests within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the next programme budget, for the biennium 2016-2017;

VII. Collaborative Partnership on Forests

15. *Decides* that the core functions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests will be to:

(a) Support the work of the Forum;

(b) Enhance policy and programme cooperation and coordination at all levels among its member organizations, consistent with their mandates;

(c) Promote the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets;

16. *Urges* members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to strengthen the Partnership by formalizing its working modalities, including through a multilateral memorandum of understanding, and by developing procedures for the effective functioning and operation of the Partnership, and to report thereon to the Forum at its special session to be held in 2016; to contribute to the work of the Forum and its Committee on Implementation and Technical Advice, in particular with regard to the forest science-policy

interface, as requested; and to submit an annual report on the Partnership's activities, achievements and resource allocations, suitable for a wide range of audiences, including potential donors;

17. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to:

(a) Assess its membership and the potential added value of additional members with significant forest-related expertise and the mandate to fill the gaps, and to inform the Forum's working group accordingly;

(b) Provide its views to the Forum's working group on transforming the Partnership into "UN-Forest";

(c) Invite the Chair of the Forum or other members of the Bureau of the Forum to the high-level meetings of the Partnership;

(d) Request member organizations of the Partnership to provide technical and scientific advice relevant to the Forum and its subsidiary bodies, including on emerging issues;

(e) Urge member organizations of the Partnership to include in the work programmes of their respective organizations dedicated funding for the Partnership, as well as budgeted and integrated activities supporting the Forum's priorities, consistent with the strategic plan and the quadrennial programmes of work;

18. *Calls upon* Member States which are members of the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support the action referred to in paragraph 17 (e) of the present resolution as an essential strategy for improving coherence on forest issues at all levels;

VIII. Regional/subregional involvement

19. *Decides* that the Forum shall endeavour to strengthen its collaboration with regional and subregional organizations and processes in order to facilitate the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including the global objectives on forests and the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets, and promote coordinated regional inputs to the sessions of the Forum and the meetings of the Committee on Implementation and Technical Advice;

20. *Invites* the regional commissions of the United Nations which have not yet done so to develop substantive programmes on forests, including the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, in cooperation with the secretariat of the Forum and the forestry commissions of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

21. *Invites* regional and subregional organizations and processes to provide periodic inputs to the sessions of the Forum and the meetings of the Committee on Implementation and Technical Advice, including substantive recommendations on facilitating the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, the global objectives on forests and the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets;

22. *Requests* the secretariat of the Forum to consult with the regional commissions of the United Nations as well as the forestry commissions of the

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on other means to enhance collaboration between them and the Forum, including on the implementation of the strategic plan and the quadrennial programmes of work of the Forum;

IX. Major groups and other stakeholder involvement

23. *Decides* to strengthen the participation of major groups and other stakeholders in the sessions of the Forum, invites the Forum to take adequate measures to promote their participation in plenary meetings of the Forum, and also invites major groups and other stakeholders to enhance their contributions to the work of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015, including the Forum and its subsidiary bodies;

24. *Urges* Member States to include interested stakeholder representatives as members of their official delegations to the Forum;

25. *Also urges* Member States to consider enhancing the participation and the contributions of stakeholder representatives in country-led initiatives;

26. *Requests* the Secretariat to:

(a) Strengthen the participation of leaders in business and non-governmental sectors,[9] forest industries, local communities and philanthropic organizations in the work and the sessions of the Forum and its Committee on Implementation and Technical Advice, and enhance the Forum's interaction with those stakeholders;

(b) Inform the Forum's working group of the practices of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other relevant intergovernmental bodies in engaging stakeholder organizations in their sessions and programmes;

X. Strategic plan

27. *Decides* that a concise strategic plan for the Forum for the period 2017-2030 should be developed by the Forum's working group for consideration by the Forum at its special session to be convened in 2016, with a view to, inter alia, guiding and focusing the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components; the plan shall be aligned with the objectives of the arrangement, while incorporating global objectives on forests and forest-related sustainable development goals and targets, and shall also serve as a strategic framework for the arrangement, specifying associated resources and outlining a communication strategy to enhance the visibility and awareness of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests at all levels;

28. *Requests* the Forum to ensure that its strategic plan is operationalized through quadrennial programmes of work which set out priority actions with a focus on achievable actions; the first multi-year programme of work of the Forum would be for the period 2017-2020;

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[9] For example, the World Business Council on Sustainable Development, the Forests Dialogue, the World Resources Institute, the International Institute for Environment and Development, the International Family Forest Alliance and the Global Alliance of Community Forestry.

XI. Review of the international arrangement on forests

29. *Requests* the Forum to undertake a midterm review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives in 2024, as well as a final review in 2030, and, on that basis, to submit recommendations to the Council relating to the future course of the arrangement;

XII. Follow-up to the eleventh session of the Forum

30. *Endorses* the establishment of the Forum's working group as a subsidiary organ of the Forum, with membership identical to that of the Forum, to operate in an open and transparent manner, with the participation of members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional organizations, major groups and other stakeholders, to develop proposals on, inter alia:

(a) The restructuring of the future sessions of the Forum, consistent with paragraph 5 (b) of the present resolution;

(b) The replacement of references to the Millennium Development Goals with references to the sustainable development goals, and the integration of forest-related sustainable development goals and targets into the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests in a coherent and complementary manner;

(c) Guidelines for the operation of the voluntary strategic trust fund/global forest fund, as referred to in paragraph 11 (f) of the present resolution;

(d) The views of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on assessing its membership and transforming it into "UN-Forest", as referred to in paragraph 17 (b) of the present resolution;

(e) The strategic plan for 2017-2030, including the quadrennial programme of work for 2017-2020, as referred to in section X of the present resolution;

(f) The proposed global forest indicators partnership, as referred to in paragraph 12 (d) of the present resolution;

31. *Also endorses* the idea that the Forum's working group is to be time-bound, established for a period of one year, and is to meet during 2016; the working group shall elect two Co-Chairs, who shall serve as ex officio members of the Bureau of the Forum at its special session to be held in 2016;

32. *Recommends* that the Forum's working group be convened in up to three sessions in 2016 for up to a total of 15 working days to develop the proposals set out in paragraph 30 of the present resolution, taking into account the relevant outcomes of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, to be held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015, and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention

on Climate Change, to be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015;

33. *Requests* the Forum to hold a special session early in 2016 to be convened for a half-day meeting for the purpose of establishing its working group, which shall convene its first meeting immediately after the suspension of the special session; the special session shall resume for a half-day meeting immediately upon the adjournment of the final session of the working group later in 2016 to consider the proposals of the working group on the issues referred to in paragraph 30 (a) to (f) of the present resolution;

34. *Also requests* the Forum to hold its next regular session in 2018;

35. *Decides* that, in the context of the midterm review in 2024, the Forum shall consider initiating an intergovernmental negotiating process to develop the text of a legally binding agreement on all types of forests;

XIII. Resources for the implementation of the present resolution

36. *Recommends* that the General Assembly make the necessary regular programme budget provisions, including in respect of funding for a round-trip economy class ticket for the travel of one representative per delegation from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate in sessions of the Forum, its Committee on Implementation and Technical Advice and its working group;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the present resolution and to include the programmatic and budgetary implications arising therefrom in the proposed United Nations programme budget for 2016-2017, as well as in subsequent proposed United Nations biennial programmes and budgets;

38. *Urges* the Bureau of the Forum to invite donor countries and donor organizations to raise funding for the Forum Trust Fund and its sub-account voluntary strategic trust fund/global forest fund to support the implementation of the provisions of the present resolution, including with respect to the activities of the Forum;

39. *Urges* donor Governments and organizations, including financial institutions and others in a position to do so, to provide voluntary contributions to the Forum Trust Fund and its sub-account voluntary strategic trust fund/global forest fund to support their activities, as well as activities foreseen in the present resolution, whenever no regular budgetary provisions have been made in that regard;

40. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Forum in 2018 on the implementation of the present resolution.

Annex

Current functions of the facilitative process

The facilitative process was established by the United Nations Forum on Forests at the special session of its ninth session, in 2009, to assist in mobilizing and supporting new and additional financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management, the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests. The facilitative process has the following functions:[a]

(a) To assist in mobilizing and supporting new and additional financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management;

(b) To assist countries in mobilizing, accessing and enhancing the effective use of existing financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management, taking into account national policies and strategies;

(c) To identify, facilitate and simplify access to all sources of finance for sustainable forest management;

(d) To identify obstacles to, gaps in and opportunities for financing sustainable forest management;

(e) To assist countries in developing national financing strategies for sustainable forest management within the framework of national forest programmes or their equivalent, as called for in the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(f) To facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building to developing countries;

(g) To provide advice, upon request, and to share examples of good practice in improving the enabling environment for sustainable forest management, in particular in achieving the four global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, in order to attract public and private sector investment and philanthropic funding;

(h) To enhance coordination, cooperation and coherence among relevant funding sources and mechanisms to improve the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests at all levels and to improve the effective and efficient use of available financial resources for its implementation;

(i) To work to identify the barriers to access to financing, in particular for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to suggest ways to simplify relevant procedures and build the capacity of countries to remove them, and to examine the effects, impact and synergies of cross-sectoral and cross-institutional activities on forest financing;

(j) To encourage relevant institutions, such as international financial institutions, as appropriate, working in close concert with regional forest processes, to further develop ways to mobilize resources from all sources and to mainstream the global objectives on forests into their programmes.

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[a] See E/2009/118, chap. I, sect. B, and E/2011/42, chap. I, sect. B.